

02/17/2020

Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager  
795 Massachusetts Ave., 1st Floor  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear City Manager Pasquale,

I am writing to you regarding the soon to be started construction of the new Tobin Montessori and Vassal Lane School project here in Cambridge. As you know, the new school has gone through a 12-month Feasibility Study which is about to conclude. I have gone to the public meetings that Perkins-Eastman has held for us Cambridge residents who live in this area. The company has listened to the many comments the public has submitted regarding the design process, selections of building location, scale and configuration, effects on traffic in the neighborhoods as well as many other details.

From these meetings, many residents have concluded that many issues facing the design team could be alleviated by the ability to acquire, or at the very least, be able to lease, on a long-term basis, (a fifty year lease seems to make the most sense, given that the new school should easily last that long), the parking lot of the National Guard Armory on Concord Avenue.

I have lived in Cambridge for most of my life and that parking lot to which I can walk from my home in less than two minutes has been empty and dead space for at least 98% of the time I have lived here. Not only is it an eyesore but it is extremely valuable and shamefully wasted space that could easily become important green space for the new school. And if not designated for sorely needed green space, it could easily become almost any aspect of the new school project if it were made available to the City of Cambridge.

I believe that former Vice Mayor Jan Devereaux as well as other current Council members have communicated to you the desirability of leasing, if not acquiring, the armory parking lot for the new school project. I urge you to take action on this request and to make efforts to make this happen. To allow this much needed space to continue to go to waste would be highly detrimental to the public-school system of Cambridge, as well as a continuing eyesore for the city. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Camacho, 24 Corporal Burns Road, Cambridge, MA 02138-1229